Larry Hogan Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford Lieutenant Governor

Christopher B. Shank Executive Director

Child Advocacy Center Services (CACS)

Working to protect Maryland's children

Program Information:

House Bill 1043 (2010) provides funding in the annual State budget to be used supplement, but not supplant, money that Child Advocacy Centers receive from other sources. The law supports law enforcement, child protective services, social workers and all who work to protect Maryland's vulnerable child victims of crime and abuse (Md. Annotated Code, Criminal Procedure Art. 11-923(g) (4)).

The purpose of funds provided through Child Advocacy Center Assistance Grants is to support a broad range of function to include:

- Counseling and psychological services for children who have been physically, sexually and /or emotionally abused
- Services to help child victims overcome trauma
- Counseling and support for families of children who have been victimized and abused
- Forensic/medical evaluations
- Specialized equipment
- Training
- Overtime for Law Enforcement, Prosecutors and Child Protective Service Workers

Eligibility:

Eligibility is limited to the existing twenty-one (21)
 Maryland CACs. Each year, CACs equally share the
 available funding. Applicants <u>must</u> be a recognized
 Child Advocacy Center in Maryland.

Match: Not Required

Tentative Dates for the CACS Program:

- NOFA posted: August

- Electronic and Hard Copy Due Dates: September

- Project Start Date: October 1

Objectives:

- To establish, enhance or expand the availability of direct services to children of sexual abuse and their families through designated categories and eligible services.
- To assure that children of sexual assault and abuse, and their families are apprised of their rights and available services.
- To assure that child victims and their families receive information about and assistance in filing for Victim's Compensation.
- To target unserved and underserved populations for provision of crime victim services.

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